African-American Sheet Music

Housed in the Pratt Library's Special Collections, this collection consists of 131 pieces of sheet music dating from 1835-1944. The collection includes songs from the heyday of the black face minstrely in the 1850s through the show tunes of the 1930s and '40s. Many songs by well-known composers, Duke Ellington, George Gershwin, Eubie Blake, and W. C. Handy are represented. The song titles and visual depictions of African Americans provide much information about racial attitudes over the course of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

If you have any questions about this collection, please contact Special Collections by e-mail or phone 443-984-2451.

Song Title	*Lyricist*	*Composer(s)*	*Year*	*Location*	*Folder*
A New Christmas Morning, Hallelujah	Robert MacGimsey	Robert MacGimsey	1943	Af-Am/Box 1	AA012
Castle Innovation Tango		James Reese Europe and Ford T.	1914	Af-Am/Box 1	AA003
Dear Little Valley of Mine	William Le Baron	M. H. Le Baron	1922	Af-Am/Box 1	AA009
Dear Little Valley of Mine	William Le Baron	M. H. Le Baron	1922	Af-Am/Box 1	AA011
Deep River			1917	Af-Am/Box 1	AA010
Deep River			1917	Af-Am/Box 1	AA006
Deep River			1917	Af-Am/Box 1	AA007
Deep River			1916	Af-Am/Box 1	AA004
Deep River			1917	Af-Am/Box 1	AA008
Deep River			1917	Af-Am/Box 1	AA005
Heav'n, heav'n			1921	Af-Am/Box 1	AA015
Heav'n, heav'n			1921	Af-Am/Box 1	AA016
I Can't Dance (I Got Ants in My Pants)	Charlie Gaines	Clarence Williams	1934	Af-Am/Box 2	AA029
I Can't Give You Anything But Love (Baby)	Dorothy Fields	Jimmy McHugh	1928	Af-Am/Box 2	AA030
I don't feel no-ways tired			1917	Af-Am/Box 1	AA017
I Must Have That Man	Dorothy Fields	Jimmy Mchugh	1928	Af-Am/Box 2	AA031
I stood on de Ribber ob Jerdon			1918	Af-Am/Box 1	AA018
I Want dem Presents Back	Paul West	Paul West	1896	Af-Am/Box 2	AA032
I Want to Shimmie	Shelton Brooks	Grant Clarke	1919	Af-Am/Box 2	AA033

Song Title	Lyricist	Composer(s)	Year	Location	Folder
I Want Yer, Ma Honey	Fay Templeton	Fay Templeton	1895	Af-Am/Box 2	AA034
I Wonder Where My Easy Rider's Gone	Shelton Brooks	Shelton Brooks	1913	Af-Am/Box 2	AA035
I'd Rather Be Outside A-lookin' In Than on the Inside	Fred J. Hamill	Ted Snyder	1906	Af-Am/Box 2	AA036
If Every Star was a Lilttle pickaninny	Joe McCarthy	Leo Edwards	1912	Af-Am/Box 2	AA047
If I Were a Bee and You Were a Red Red Rose	Shelton Brooks	Shelton Brooks	1915	Af-Am/Box 2	AA048
If the Man in the Moon Were a Coon	Fred Fischer	Fred Fischer	1905	Af-Am/Box 2	AA049
I'll Keep a Warm Spot in My Heart For You	J. W. Johnson	Rosamond Johnson	1906	Af-Am/Box 2	AA037
I'll Make dat Black Gal Mine	Dave Reed Jr.	Chas. B. Ward	1896	Af-Am/Box 2	AA038
Ill Wind (You're Blowin' me No Good)	Ted Koehler	Harold Arlen	1934	Af-Am/Box 2	AA050
I'm a Leavin' You "GoodBye"	Gilbert C. Tennant	Gilbert C. Tennant	1915	Af-Am/Box 2	AA039
I'm Beginning to See the Light	Harry James	Duke Ellington, Johnny Hodges, Don	1944	Af-Am/Box 2	AA040
I'm Just Wild about Harry	Noble Sissle and Eubie Blake	Noble Sissle and Eubie Blake	1921	Af-Am/Box 2	AA041
I'm Looking for a New Home Now	Frank Coulter	Jake C. Schaefer	1898	Af-Am/Box 2	AA042
I'm Madly in Love With You	Benny Davis	J. Fred Coots	1938	Af-Am/Box 2	AA043
I'm More Than Satisfied	Ray Klages	Thomas Waller	1927	Af-Am/Box 2	AA044
In a Sentimental Mood	Irving Mills and Manny Kurtz	Duke Ellington	1935	Af-Am/Box 2	AA051
It Ain't Necessarily So	Ira Gershwin	George Gershwin	1935	Af-Am/Box 2	AA052
It Ain't No Lie	E. P. Moran and J. Fred Helf	E. P. Moran and J. Fred Helf	1897	Af-Am/Box 2	AA053
It All Depends on You	B. G. De Sylva, Lew Brown and	B. G. De Sylva, Lew Brown and Ray	1926	Af-Am/Box 2	AA054
It Takes a Long Tall Brown-Skin Gal to Make a	Marshall Walker	Will E. Skidmore	1917	Af-Am/Box 2	AA055
I've Got a Feeling I'm Falling	Charles and Harry Tobias	Henry H. Tobias	1929	Af-Am/Box 2	AA045
I've Said My Last Farewell	C. M. Denison	J. Fred Helf	1906	Af-Am/Box 2	AA046
Jim Brown			1835	Af-Am/Box 2	AA056
Kentucky Babe	Richard Henry Buck	Adam Geibel	1896	Af-Am/Box 2	AA057
Kiss Me honey Do	Edgar Smith	John Stromberg	1898	Af-Am/Box 2	AA058

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La Rumba		J. Tim Brymn	1913	Af-Am/Box 1	AA002
Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing	James Weldon Johnson	J. Rosamond Johnson	1921	Af-Am/Box 2	AA060
Little Black Me	Thurland Chattaway	Thurland Chattaway	1899	Af-Am/Box 2	AA061
Little Mother of Mine	Walter H. Brown	H. T. Burleigh	1917	Af-Am/Box 3	AA062
Louisiana Lize	J. W. and Rosamond Johnson	Bob Cole	1899	Af-Am/Box 3	AA064
Love Me Just Like Romeo Loved Miss Juliet	William Jerome	Jean Schwartz	1909	Af-Am/Box 3	AA065
Love Will Find a Way	Noble Sissle	Eubie Blake	1921	Af-Am/Box 3	AA066
Lovin' Sam (The Sheik of Alabam)	Jack Yellen	Milton Ager	1922	Af-Am/Box 3	AA067
Ma Ebony Belle	Ed Gardenier	Maurice Levi	1901	Af-Am/Box 3	AA068
Mama Don't Allow It	Charles "Cow Cow" Davenport	Charles "Cow Cow" Davenport	1929	Af-Am/Box 3	AA070
Mammy Jinny's Jubilee	L. Wolfe Gilbert	Lewis F. Muir	1913	Af-Am/Box 3	AA071
Mammy's Chocolate Soldier	Sidney Mitchell	Archie Gottler	1918	Af-Am/Box 3	AA072
Mammy's Little Coal Black Rose	Raymond Egan	Richard A. Whiting	1916	Af-Am/Box 3	AA073
Mandy Won't You Let Me Be Your Beau	Bob Cole	Rosamond Johnson	1902	Af-Am/Box 3	AA074
Manola My Dusky Bride	Harry B. Marshall	Robert A. Keiser	1901	Af-Am/Box 3	AA075
Melindy A Darkey Lullaby	Robert Emmett MacAlarney	Henry Stanley Haskins	1898	Af-Am/Box 3	AA076
Memories Of You	Andy Razaf	Eubie Blake	1930	Af-Am/Box 3	AA077
Mood Indigo	Duke Elligton, Irving Mills and	Duke Ellington, Irving Mills and	1931	Af-Am/Box 3	AA079
My Charcoal Charmer	Will D. Cobb	Gus Edwards	1900	Af-Am/Box 3	AA081
My Coal Black Lady	W. T. Jefferson	W. T. Jefferson	1896	Af-Am/Box 3	AA082
My Evaline	Mae Auwerda Sloane	Mae Auwerda Sloane	1901	Af-Am/Box 3	AA083
My Gal is a High Born Lady	Barney Fagan	Barney Fagan	1896	Af-Am/Box 3	AA084
My Hannah Lady			1899	Af-Am/Box 3	AA085
My Lord, what a mornin'			1918	Af-Am/Box 1	AA019
My Ole Gal Done Flew	William M. Paine	Charles A. Chase	1895	Af-Am/Box 3	AA086
My Starlight Queen	Ed. Gardenier	Maurice Levi	1902	Af-Am/Box 3	AA087

Song Title	Lyricist	Composer(s)	Year	Location	Folder
My Way's Cloudy			1917	Af-Am/Box 1	AA020
Nobody Knows de Trouble I've Seen			1917	Af-Am/Box 1	AA022
Nobody Knows de Trouble I've Seen			1917	Af-Am/Box 1	AA021
O Perfect Love: Wedding Song	D. F. Blomfield	H. T. Burleigh	1914	Af-Am/Box 1	AA024
Oh Death Where Is Thy Sting	Clarence A. Stout	Clarence A. Stout	1918	Af-Am/Box 3	AA088
Oh Dem Golden Slippers	James A. Bland	James A. Bland	1928	Af-Am/Box 3	AA089
Oh Peter Go Ring dem Bells			1918	Af-Am/Box 1	AA023
Oh! Papa! (Please Make John Behave)	Dave Elman	Dave Elman	1924	Af-Am/Box 3	AA090
Old Folks at Home	E. P. Christy	E. P. Christy	1851	Af-Am/Box 3	AA091
Oliver Gallop			1860	Af-Am/Box 4	AA118
On Ma Journey			1928	Af-Am/Box 1	AA013
On Ma Journey			1928	Af-Am/Box 1	AA014
Play That Barber Shop Chord	Wm. Tracey	Lewis F. Muir	1910	Af-Am/Box 3	AA092
Please Let Me Sleep	R. c. McPherson	James T. Brymn	1902	Af-Am/Box 3	AA093
Possum and Taters	Chas. Hunter	Chas. Hunter	1900	Af-Am/Box 3	AA094
Rastus on Parade		Kerry Mills	1895	Af-Am/Box 4	AA095
Round His Bed I'm Going to Creep	Charles Moreland	John Magner	1896	Af-Am/Box 4	AA097
Row Row Row	William Jerome	Jimmie V. Monaco	1912	Af-Am/Box 4	AA096
Say You Love Me Sue	Harry B. Smith	John Stromberg	1899	Af-Am/Box 4	AA100
Selection "Lew Leslie's Blackbirds of 1928"	Dorothy Fields	Jimmy McHugh	1928	Af-Am/Box 2	AA059
Sheltered by the Stars, Cradled by the Moon, Covered	Joe Young	Thomas Waller	1932	Af-Am/Box 4	AA102
She's a 'Spectable Married Colored Lady	Ed. C. Center	Jackson Gouraud	1898	Af-Am/Box 4	AA101
Shine	Cecil Mack and Lew Brown	Ford Dabney	1924	Af-Am/Box 4	AA103
Shoe Shine Boy	Sammy Cahn	Saul Chaplin	1936	Af-Am/Box 4	AA104
Short'nin Bread	Clement Wood	Jacques Wolfe	1928	Af-Am/Box 4	AA105
Show the White of Yo' Eyes	Stanley Crawford	Stanley Crawford	1903	Af-Am/Box 4	AA106

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Shut Yo' Eyes an' Pucker Yo' Lips	L. H. Ascherfeld	L. H. Ascherfeld	1899	Af-Am/Box 4	AA107
Sippi	Henry Creamer and Andy Razaf	Jimmy Johnson	1928	Af-Am/Box 4	AA108
Sister Susie's Sewing Shirts for Soldiers	R. P. Weston	Hermann E. Darewski	1914	Af-Am/Box 4	AA109
Solitude		Duke Ellington	1934	Af-Am/Box 4	AA110
Some of These Days	Shelton Brooks	Shelton Brooks	1910	Af-Am/Box 4	AA111
Somewhere	Alston Waters	Alston Waters	1919	Af-Am/Box 3	AA063
Sophisticated Lady	Irving Mills and Mitchell Parish	Duke Ellington	1933	Af-Am/Box 4	AA112
St. Louis Blues	W. C. Handy	W. C. Handy	1914	Af-Am/Box 4	AA098
Stay in Your Own Backyard	Karl Kennett	Lyn Udall	1899	Af-Am/Box 4	AA113
Stompin' at the Savoy	Andy Razaf	Benny Goodman, Chick Webb,	1936	Af-Am/Box 4	AA114
Summertime	DuBose Heyward and Ira	George Gershwin	1935	Af-Am/Box 4	AA115
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot			1917	Af-Am/Box 1	AA026
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot			1917	Af-Am/Box 1	AA025
Tango Dreams		J. Rosamond Johnson	1914	Af-Am/Box 1	AA001
Tell Me Why You Want to Go to Paree	Shelton Brooks	Shelton Brooks	1919	Af-Am/Box 4	AA116
The Maiden With The Dreamy Eyes	J. W. Johnson	Bob Cole	1901	Af-Am/Box 3	AA069
The Memphis Blues	George A. Norton	W. C. Handy	1913	Af-Am/Box 3	AA078
The Moon, The Coon, and the Little Octoroon	Will A. Heelan	Maude Nugent	1903	Af-Am/Box 3	AA080
The Same Old Way	Joseph McCarthy	Harry Tierney	1923	Af-Am/Box 4	AA099
'Tis Me, O Lord (Standin' in de Need of Pray'r)			1918	Af-Am/Box 1	AA027
Truckin'	Ted Koehler	Rube Bloom	1935	Af-Am/Box 4	AA119
Twelfth (12th) Street Rag	Euday L. Bowman	Euday L. Bowman	1919	Af-Am/Box 4	AA117
Uncle Rufus' Cake Walk		Ellis R. Ephraim	1898	Af-Am/Box 4	AA120
Under the Bamboo Tree	Bob Cole	Bob Cole	1902	Af-Am/Box 4	AA121
Up the Rickety Stairs	Arthur J. Lamb	J. Fred Helf	1910	Af-Am/Box 4	AA122
We Are Americans Too	Andy Razaf, Eubie Blake and	Andy Razaf, Eubie Blake and Chas.	1941	Af-Am/Box 4	AA123

Song Title	Lyricist	Composer(s)	Year	Location	Folder
Weepin' Mary			1917	Af-Am/Box 1	AA028
What's Keeping My Prince Charming?	Mann Holiner	Alberta Nichols	1931	Af-Am/Box 4	AA124
When My Lize Rolls the Whites of Her Eyes	Geo. M. Cohan	Geo. M. Cohan	1897	Af-Am/Box 4	AA125
When You Ain't Got No Money, Well You Needn't	Clarence S. Brewster	A. B. Sloane	1898	Af-Am/Box 4	AA126
Where did Robinson Crusoe go with Friday on	Sam Lewis and Joe Young	Geo. W. Meyer	1916	Af-Am/Box 4	AA127
White Folks Call it Chantecler but it's Just Plain	Andrew B. Sterling	Bert Williams	1910	Af-Am/Box 4	AA128
Who Knows?	Paul Lawrence Dunbar	Ernest R. Ball	1908	Af-Am/Box 4	AA129
Wild Cherries: That Cooney Spooney Rag	Irving Berlin	Ted Snyder	1909	Af-Am/Box 4	AA130
Willow Tree	Henry Creamer and Andy Razaf	Jimmy Johnson and Thomas Waller	1928	Af-Am/Box 4	AA131